

# Town Council

## STAFF REPORT Department of Engineering



<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	May 10, 2016
<b>PROJECT:</b>	FY 2016 Capital Project Update – Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May River Streetscape: Final Phase</li></ul>
<b>PROJECT MANAGER:</b>	John Hutchinson, Capital Improvement Program Manager

### MAY RIVER STREETScape: FINAL PHASE

**Scope:** Adopted in 2006 by the Town of Bluffton Town Council, the Old Town Master Plan presents a comprehensive set of guiding design principles and urban design directives. It further provides policy guidance for the Bluffton Historic District. In this regard, the Old Town Master Plan advises that the Town create walkable streets, enhance the tree canopy, and manage stormwater runoff by mimicking natural stormwater systems. It provides that the Town and community to craft unique projects with the intent of preserving and enhancing the Bluffton character.

Improvement of the May River Road corridor is an implementation step of the Old Town Master Plan, supported by the Comprehensive Plan and the SC 46 Corridor Management Plan. The final phase of the May River Streetscape will improve approximately 2,875 linear feet of May River Road, beginning at the intersection of Jennifer Court, and ending approximately 100 linear feet east of the intersection with Pin Oak Street. The addition of sidewalks, curb and gutter, on-street parking, landscaping and lighting will improve the appearance of the corridor, while increasing safety for pedestrians. With the completion of this project, pedestrian connectivity is provided from Old Town to Buck Island Road.

**Budget:** The proposed project budget is approximately \$1,950,000, including design & permitting, construction, construction management, and landscaping.

**Schedule:** See Attachment 1

**Previous Status:** Contract was awarded to Easement Acquisition consultant at the March Town Council Meeting. Contract has been finalized and signed by both parties. There will be a coordinated effort between the Town's attorney and the consultant to acquire the easements with Town Staff oversight. The plans were resubmitted to SCDOT on March 19<sup>th</sup> and comments were received on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The comments will be addressed and resubmitted along with the Design Exception Report as soon as possible. As of the drafting of this report, Town Staff are scheduled to meet in Columbia on Tuesday, April 5 with SCDOT to review status of the final approval of the plans and work with SCDOT staff on the status Local Public Agency checklist. We anticipate having approval from SCDOT to move forward with easement acquisition process by mid-April. In order to maintain our current projected schedule for construction start, we will need to intensify our focus on the acquisition of the easements.

**Current Status:**

On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Town Staff met in Columbia with SCDOT staff members from Local Public Agency Group and the Low Country Regional Production Group to review and discuss the comments the forwarded us to March 30. The goal of the meeting was to ensure that all parties had a clear understanding of the comments and agree that our potential responses would be satisfactory. Also discussed were the Town's upcoming obligations with respect to the Local Public Agency agreement.

On Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, Town Staff along with a representative from the Town Attorney's office, met with the team from the easement Acquisition firm. The meeting was to assign roles and responsibilities for the easement acquisition process. A timeline was established to ensure the project schedule would be met.

Town staff is working to finalize a scope and contract with a landscape architectural firm to complete the design of the landscaping.

# Update: May River Road Streetscape

## *Current Phase: Design / Development*

- Began: September 2015
- ECD: July 2016
- On-time: Yes
- In Budget: Yes
- Previous Status
  - Coordinating with SCDOT on Design Approval
  - Terry Finger's office and consultant facilitating easement acquisitions
- Current Status
  - Coordinating with SCDOT on Design Approval
  - Contract Executed with Easement Acquisition Firm, appraisals started
- Next Major Milestone(s):
  - Finalize design with SCDOT plan approval, Encroachment Permit
  - Easement Acquisition



